Statement-II

Details of LD charges from Private Basis Service Operators

Name of the Operators	Service Area	Month of Commencement of Service	Total LD Charged for non-commissioning of service & delay in Provision of VPTs and DELs (Rs. in crores)	LD for delay in provision of VPT and DEL (Rs in crores)	LD Charged for non-commissioning of service (Rs in crores)
Bharti	Madhya Pradesh	June, 1998	4.00	4.00	Nil
Tata Teleservices	Andhra Pradesh	March, 1999	13.00	6.50	6.50
Tata Teleservices (Maharashtra) Ltd.	Maharashtra	October, 1998	7.75	6.50	1.25
Reliance	Gujarat	May, 2000	13.00	6.50	6.50
Shyam Telelink	Rajasthan	June, 2000	8.00	4.00	4.00
HFCL Infotel	Punjab	September, 2000	8.00	4.00	4.00
		TOTAL:	53.75	31.50	22.25

Connection of villages through Common Service Centres

1725. SHRIMATI SYEDA ANWARA TAIMUR : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that one lakh villages would be connected through the Common Service Centre (CSC) by 2007 as recommended by Eighth National Conference on E-governance;

(b) if so, the number of villages identified in Assam and the other North Eastern States to be connected through the Common Service Centre; and

(c) the steps being taken to implement effective usage of IT and E-governance?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMED): (a) and (b) In line with the recommendation of the 8th National E-governance Conference, Department of Information Technology (DIT) has prepared draft guidelines to create an enabling environment with policy interventions and financial support, so that roll out of Common Service Centres, especially in Rural areas can take place at a faster pace. The draft guidelines have been circulated for comments.

In the Union Budget for the year 2005-06, Government has proposed to join Mission 2007—a national initiative launched by an alliance comprising nearly 80 organizations including civil society organizations, with the goal to set up a knowledge Centre in every village by the 60th anniversary of Independence.

So far, no decisions has been taken by the Government to connect one lakh villages through the Common Service Centres.

(c) DIT has been supporting various initiatives to promote usage of Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) for electronic delivery of Government services, for empowerment of citizens, tele-medicine, E-learning etc.

Expansion plan in II Sector

1726. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of persons (both professionals and support staff) employed in expanding BPO and IT sector in the year 2004 due to major investment plans and consolidation efforts in these sectors;

(b) the growth targets in terms of investment during 2004; and

(c) how much growth is anticipated during the year 2005 due to the emergence of pro-BPO regime in US elections?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMED): (a) BPO and IT Sector employed 8,41,500 persons (both professionals and support staff) during the year 2004.